AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Claims

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims with the following listing of claims.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (**Currently Amended**) A method for automatically determining at least one modal value of non-numeric data, the method comprising comprises:

selecting a data subset from a dataset, the data subset comprising at least a portion of the dataset and including at least one non-numeric value; and

automatically determining at least one modal value based on the selected data subset; and

outputting the at least one modal value.

2.   (**Original**) The method of Claim 1, wherein selecting the data subset from the dataset comprises querying a database.

3.   (**Original**) The method of Claim 1, each value of the data subset comprising one of the following data types:

float;

integer;

currency;

date;

decimal; or

string.

4.   (**Original**) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining at least one modal value based on the selected data subset comprises:

sorting the selected data subset by value;

processing the sorted data subset to identify one or more modal groups, each modal group comprising one or more instances of a substantially identical value; and

determining at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups.

5.   (**Original**) The method of Claim 4 further comprising determining a modal count for each modal group, each modal count comprising ~~the~~ a number of instances of the substantially identical value in the associated modal group.

6.   (**Original**) The method of Claim 5, wherein determining at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups comprises:

determining a highest one or more modal counts;

selecting the substantially identical value from each modal group associated with the highest modal count; and

assigning each selected substantially identical value to one modal value.

7.   (**Currently Amended**) The method of Claim 5, <u>further comprising</u> ~~in response at least in part to each modal count being equal to one,~~ assigning a null value to one modal value <u>in response to each modal count being equal to one</u>.

8.   (**Original**) The method of Claim 4, one of the modal groups comprising at least one lowercase string value and at least one mixed-case string value.

9.   (**Currently Amended**) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining at least one modal value based on the selected data subset comprises:

selecting one data object from the data subset;

comparing a value of the data object to a plurality of stored values in a lookup table, each stored value being associated with one modal count;

in response, at least in part, to the value of the data object being located in the plurality of stored values, adding one to the associated modal count in response to the value of the data object being located in the plurality of stored values;

selecting ~~the~~ a highest one or more modal counts from the lookup table; and

assigning each stored value associated with one of the highest modal counts to one modal value.

10.   (**Currently Amended**) A computer readable medium containing computer-executable instructions ~~Software~~ for automatically determining at least one modal value of non-numeric data, the computer-executable instructions operable when executed to:

select a data subset from a dataset, the data subset comprising at least a portion of the dataset and including at least one non-numeric value; ~~and~~

automatically determine at least one modal value based on the selected data subset; and

output the at least one modal value.

11.   (**Currently Amended**) The computer readable medium ~~software~~ of Claim 10, wherein ~~the software operable to select~~ selecting the data subset from the dataset comprises ~~software operable to query~~ querying a database.

12.   (**Currently Amended**) The computer readable medium ~~software~~ of Claim 10, each value of the data subset comprising one of the following data types:

float;

integer;

currency;

date;

decimal; or

string.

13.   (**Currently Amended**) The computer readable medium software of Claim 10, wherein the computer-executable instructions are software operable to determine at least one modal value based on the selected data subset by comprises software operable to:

sorting sort the selected data subset by value;

processing process the sorted data subset to identify one or more modal groups, each modal group comprising one or more instances of a substantially identical value; and

automatically determining determine at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups.

14.   (**Currently Amended**) The computer readable medium software of Claim 13, the computer-executable instructions further operable when executed to determine a modal count for each modal group, each modal count comprising the a number of instances of the substantially identical value in the associated modal group.

15.   (**Currently Amended**) The computer readable medium software of Claim 14, wherein the software computer-executable instructions are further operable when executed to determine at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups by comprises software operable to:

determining determine a highest one or more modal counts;

selecting select the substantially identical value from each modal group associated with the highest modal count; and

assigning assign each selected substantially identical value to one modal value.

16.   (**Currently Amended**) The computer readable medium software of Claim 14, in response at least in part to each modal count being equal to one, the computer-executable instructions further operable when executed to assign a null value to one modal value in response to each modal count being equal to one.

17.   (**Currently Amended**) The <u>computer readable medium</u> ~~software~~ of Claim 13, one of the modal groups comprising at least one lowercase string value and at least one mixed-case string value.

18.   (**Currently Amended**) The <u>computer readable medium</u> ~~software~~ of Claim 10, wherein the <u>computer-executable instructions are further</u> ~~software~~ operable <u>when executed</u> to determine at least one modal value based on the selected data subset <u>by</u> ~~comprises software operable to~~:

     <u>selecting</u> ~~select~~ one data object from the data subset;

     <u>comparing</u> ~~compare~~ a value of the data object to a plurality of stored values in a lookup table, each stored value being associated with one modal count;

     ~~in response to the value of the data object being located in the plurality of stored values,~~ adding one to the associated modal count <u>in response to the value of the data object being located in the plurality of stored values</u>;

     selecting ~~the~~ <u>a</u> highest one or more modal counts from the lookup table; and

     assigning each stored value associated with one of the highest modal counts to one modal value.

19.   (**Currently Amended**) <u>A system</u> ~~System~~ for automatically determining at least one modal value of non-numeric data<u>, the system comprising</u> ~~comprises~~:

     <u>a</u> memory operable to store a data set, the data set comprising a plurality of data objects and each data object comprising a data type and a value; and

     one or more processors operable to:

          select a data subset from the dataset, the data subset comprising at least a portion of the plurality of data objects and including at least one non-numeric value; ~~and~~

          automatically determine at least one modal value based on the selected data subset<u>; and</u>

          <u>output the at least one modal value</u>.

20.   (**Currently Amended**) The system of Claim 19, wherein the processors <u>are</u> operable to select the data subset from the dataset ~~comprise processors operable to query~~ <u>by querying</u> a database.

21.   (**Original**) The system of Claim 19, each data object comprising one of the following data types:

      float;

      integer;

      currency;

      date;

      decimal; or

      string.

22.   (**Currently Amended**) The system of Claim 19, wherein the processors <u>are</u> operable to determine at least one modal value based on the selected data subset ~~comprise processors operable to~~ <u>by</u>:

      <u>sorting</u> ~~sort~~ the selected data subset by value;

      <u>processing</u> ~~process~~ the sorted data subset to identify one or more modal groups, each modal group comprising one or more instances of a substantially identical value; and

      automatically <u>determining</u> ~~determine~~ at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups.

23.   (**Currently Amended**) The system of Claim 22, the processors further operable to determine a modal count for each modal group, each modal count comprising ~~the~~ <u>a</u> number of instances of the substantially identical value in the associated modal group.

24.   (**Currently Amended**) The system of Claim 23, wherein the processors <u>are</u> operable to determine at least one modal value based, at least in part, on the one or more modal groups <u>by</u> ~~comprise processors operable to~~:

determining ~~determine~~ a highest one or more modal counts;

selecting ~~select~~ the substantially identical value from each modal group associated with the highest modal count; and

assigning ~~assign~~ each selected substantially identical value to one modal value.

25.   (**Currently Amended**) The system of Claim 23, ~~in response at least in part to each modal count being equal to one,~~ the processors further operable to assign a null value to one modal value in response to each modal count being equal to one.

26.   (**Original**) The system of Claim 22, one of the modal groups comprising at least one lowercase string value and at least one mixed-case string value.

27.   (**Currently Amended**) The system of Claim 19, wherein the processors are operable to determine at least one modal value based on the selected data subset by ~~comprise processors operable to~~:

selecting one data object from the data subset;

comparing a value of the data object to a plurality of stored values in a lookup table, each stored value being associated with one modal count;

~~in response to the value of the data object being located in the plurality of stored values,~~ adding one to the associated modal count in response to the value of the data object being located in the plurality of stored values;

selecting ~~the~~ a highest one or more modal counts from the lookup table; and

assigning each stored value associated with one of the highest modal counts to one modal value.

28.   (**Cancelled**)